

Olivia Data
Testimony on HB 1333
January 23, 2023

RE: Testimony in Opposition to HB 1333

Good morning, Chairman Klemin and members of the committee. My name is Olivia Data, I am a North Dakota resident, and I am writing to you today to ask you to vote “Do Not Pass” on HB 1333.

There seems to be a recent trend of targeting art and culture in the name of protecting children. As children are exposed to more and more information and content online and in our growing world, I understand this reaction. Yet, I ask you to consider the consequences of purging our communities of all performances that so much as border on risqué. Not only is the definition of what “appeals to a prurient interest” extremely subjective, but many things that some people would consider taboo are to others a celebration of solidarity, community, and love.

In particular, I ask you to consider the example of “male or female impersonators,” or drag queens. During Bismarck Pride, there is often a performance on the capitol grounds in which drag queens lip sync to fun, kid-friendly songs. I am aware of recent waves of fear mongering against drag queens – and, quite frankly, just about anyone in the LGBTQ+ community. There are fears that drag queens could corrupt children, expose them to sexual content, and much more, but as someone who has attended Bismarck Pride with my friends and family for the past two years, I can tell you that this is not true.

Drag queens who perform for non-18+ audiences have appropriate, child-friendly routines. There is energetic dancing, abundant glitter, and outrageous wigs. These performances are lively and

Olivia Data
Testimony on HB 1333
January 23, 2023

entertaining and beneficial to children who want to know that they live in a state that will celebrate them for who they are. Kids are far more likely to get healthy exercise while dancing with their friends to these performances than they are to be corrupted or see anything inappropriate.

I remember watching these performances myself and feeling thankful that I lived in a world where all different types of people could come together as a community and just have fun being ourselves. But HB 1333 prioritizes fear and shame over the joy we have built together.

I urge you not to succumb to fear mongering and prejudice. Please, let us foster a community of love, confidence, and acceptance. I ask you to vote “Do Not Pass” on HB 1333.

Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have for me about my testimony.

Olivia Data
District 35
Bismarck, ND